

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: A. Moran, C. Workman, J. Carrington, J. Armstrong, E. Holinko, B. Sims, P. Aho, S. Vasington, D. Freudman, M. Gilbert, L. Cruickshank

Staff: L. Painter, C. van Zelm

Absent: N. Frank

Meeting was called to order by A. Moran at 1:00pm.

1. Public Comment

Letter from H. Brueckner will be addressed during the meeting under agenda item 5.

2. Meeting Minutes

Sims moved, Aho seconded approval of the June 9, 2020 minutes as presented. Gilbert and Freudman abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Updates

a. Mansfield Downtown Partnership / Economic Development. van Zelm reported on Public Awareness Week – mask wearing and social distancing. Information will be on A-Frames, posters, website, garage, elevators, and in the business establishments. The Fall Festival will be a month long series of events with social distancing. The Opportunity Zone and Four Corners Area were featured in the Business Facilities Magazine.

b. Planning and Development. L. Painter stated the Regulatory Review Committee has been working on new housing regulations that are adaptable to all ages and demographics. The University and two developers gave feedback and they feel a balance has been reached. The draft version will go to a public hearing on September 8th. The Town is applying for a \$500,000 grant from the CT Dept. of Housing to assist those residents that are struggling with the Covid19 virus. Residents can apply for assistance with childcare, rental, and food security.

c. USG. Workman stated the University is working with USG on census and voting. Moran spoke with Frank about social gatherings. Douglas joined the meeting with an update from Frank. USG would like to work with the Town Registrar on setting up a second EDR location on or near campus. USG working with Armstrong and Workman on getting off campus students involved and counted for the census. Some students will be looking at off campus housing if they are not allowed on campus housing.

4. UConn Construction Updates

Vasington stated the Northwest Science Quad has mobilized and will begin construction. During UConn move in, Friday to Monday, no construction will be occurring. The website, UConn.edu/construction, has links to projects in progress. The following projects began the summer: Central Utility Plant, Soccer Stadium, Softball Stadium, and Recreation Field. During construction, people will not be able to enter campus from Separatist Road. Holinko asked about remediation done at Science Quad which Vasington confirmed that testing was done and remediation was completed. The wetland is outside of the construction limits. Covid has not hindered construction pricing as all construction was under contract before Covid.

5. UConn / Town Covid 19 Update

Moran stated the Town Council passed an emergency order under Covid 19 authorizing the Town Manager to implement social gatherings to 20 people outside and 10 people inside at off campus housing. This would allow the Town Manager to fine every person at the gathering. Moran spoke with the UConn President on this issue and the University is in full support of this effort. They are also working with landlords to reach tenants and ensure compliance. Residents are very concerned about students coming back and transmitting the virus. There will be a permit available to apply for larger gatherings. Workman hopes this will enforce the guidelines already in place with the University. Workman spoke about the Thought Exchange (about 570 people submitted) and stated the report will be available once it is complete. Covid 19 testing numbers will be published on a dashboard, students and employees will be tested. Workman stated approximately 800 out-of-state students with only online classes shall remain at home.

Email from the resident asked why UConn Police can't be more proactive in patrols. Carrington stated UConn Police cannot patrol off campus, only on UConn properties. They would need permission from the Town and the State Police. The Town is waiting to hear about an order in regards to extending boundaries for UConn Police. The resident also asked about the University adding their expectations to their student code. Armstrong stated the University can respond if the information and details are received. Gilbert stated that the existing code of conduct has language about disruptive or endangering behavior, therefore unsafe gatherings fall under this part of the code. Moran said to visit the Town and University websites for changing information.

6. 2020 Census

Carrington stated the committee continues to work with Catherine Marks trying to find those that lived in Mansfield in March before they left. They will try to find returning students and have them fill out the census indicating where they lived last school year. The committee will meet again in September.

7. Other Business

None

8. Future Agenda Items

Elections/Voting

Motion made by Holinko seconded by Armstrong, to adjourn at 2:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Baczanski
Public Works Specialist – Town of Mansfield